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**KEYWORDS IN HARRY POTTER BOOKS:  
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL AND ITS CZECH TRANSLATION**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The bachelor's thesis is aimed at the phenomenon called Harry Potter. Since this phenomenon offers a lot of perspectives for exploration, not only for the uniqueness of story as such or its popularity, but also for its extraordinary contents and references, the perspective of this bachelor's thesis is to focus entirely on keywords that can be found in the books.

The exploration of keywords in the Harry Potter books series such 'Quidditch' or 'horcrux' seem to represent an unusual challenge in the field of linguistics on account of their originality, references and hidden meanings. Taking into consideration an interesting Czech translation of keywords and the field of the author's study, there seemed to be a great opportunity to concern with such interesting topic.

The thesis is focused on the comparative study of English original of Harry Potter keywords and their Czech translation. It deals only with those words which have been translated to Czech and mainly with significant ones or those which are interesting from the point of view of linguistics. The emphasis is laid mainly on their etymology, word formation and meaning.

The aim of the thesis is to explore the differences between Czech and English versions, which seem to be essential, concerning the specific language of Harry Potter, which is challenging for translators, and therefore to find the answer to the question to what extent the thoughts and references hidden in original keywords are lost in their Czech translation.

The theoretical part introduces the story of Harry Potter as such including the author and the Czech translators, characterizes the language of Harry Potter and presents the matter of word formation and its types with given examples from the Harry Potter books. The information about mythology and Old English is mentioned in order to give an idea what Harry



Potter keywords are primarily based on. Also, the problems with particular translation problems such neologisms, alliteration of proper nouns are stated.

To accomplish the objective of the thesis, the analysis of individual words is given primarily with the help of etymological, monolingual and synonym dictionaries, in order to give it properly and expose all possible meanings. Also, to be able to advert to the references of particular words appropriately, the knowledge of all Harry Potter books, alternatively movies, is applied. Last but not least, the analysis is accompanied with the comments inspired by answers to a fortnight online questionnaire, filled-out by two hundred and twenty four people.

The last of the objectives of the bachelor's thesis is to help readers to more understand meanings and hidden thoughts of chosen keywords from the Harry Potter books, and to give Czech readers of Harry Potter idea on what basis Czech equivalents were chosen and to what extent they are similar to keywords in English language.

## **2 THEORETICAL PART**

The theoretical part of the thesis is focused on a brief overview of the story of Harry Potter and specifications of the Harry Potter books, such as mythology, neologisms and others. The author of the books, J.K. Rowling, will be paid attention to as well, principally her approach to writing Harry Potter and creating and forming of the keywords. The chapter also deals with the significant translators of Harry Potter, Vladimir and Pavel Medek's, who enabled readers to comprehend the meaning of complicated language used in the original books.

It also concerns the period of Old English and the concept of mythology, which play an important role in the creation of words in Harry Potter books. Further, the basic information about word formation and its types is given as it is a significant part for making comparison of the English original and the Czech translation. In the end of some individual types of word formations, some examples from the Harry Potter books are given.

In the end of the theoretical part a few translation problems that may appear, most importantly in connection with neologisms and proper names, are mentioned and there are given some possible solutions to such problems.

### **2.1 The story of Harry Potter**

Harry Potter is one of the most famous series in the history of literature, consisting of seven books. It is a fantasy story about adventures of a little wizard, Harry Potter, and fighting against the evil. It might seem like a quite common and simple subject matter of a book. In fact, the story of Harry Potter, invented by British writer, Joanne Kathleen Rowling, is a system of

incredibly elaborated connections, references and hidden meanings. Even though it is said to be for children, it includes the elements of thriller, deals with very serious problems and according to Mrs. Rowling one of the main points of the story is death itself. [1]

These fantasy novels were created fortuitously in 1990, when J.K. Rowling was travelling by train from Manchester to London. She suddenly got the idea of a little wizard and started writing down her visions. On account of her tough situation in life, poverty and depression inspired her for many themes in books. [2] Therefore, her novels are being criticised for their dark and gloomy tone, which is highly inconvenient for children. [3]

The author's intention was that children would grow up with novels. Although books were not being published every year, each new book was intended for much older readers. [4] It enables to understand the novels well, as the story is getting more complicated and include thoughts which are sometimes understandable only to adults.

The novels are considered to be the best selling series of all time. Since the first publishing in 1997 to the last one in 2001, it has been sold approximately 450 million copies. [5] All books were made into eight movies (the seventh book was divided into two movies), which popularised the Harry Potter stories even more, since many people have not read the books at all.

The language of the Harry Potter novels is very demanding. There are many idioms in the books, satire, irony and non-standard language is used. A lot of words are of Old English, Latin or Greek origin. From the point of view of language units and their translation, the most attractive is the use of proper nouns, neologisms, alliteration and anagrams.

## 2.2 The translation of Harry Potter

Translation of Harry Potter seems to be very challenging for translators, considering the language specifications. The novels were translated into seventy languages, including Ancient Greek and Latin. [6]

Some translators made efforts to translate everything that was possible, whereas the others decided to preserve original words, and thus some of them were not transferred at all. Therefore, we can find words that have become international expressions in some of the foreign translations – original words left in its state, for example 'Quidditch', 'Ravenclaw', 'Slytherin' and others. [7] The translation possibilities unfold according to the lexicon of particular language or an effort of translators as such.

The Czech versions of Harry Potter were translated by brothers Vladimír and Pavel Medek's. Vladimír Medek translated the first, second and fourth book, Pavel Medek remaining four ones. The greatest asset of the translations of brothers Medek's is their effort to translate everything that is possible. Almost every word that possesses some meaning has actually its Czech version. The exceptions represent words such 'Neville Longbottom', 'Sirius Black' or 'Argus Filch'.

Nevertheless, the Czech translation of the Harry Potter books is remarkable and very valuable, primarily for the translator's effort to give readers the sense of individual words, the possibility to understand them and the privilege to create their own Czech expressions, including attractive neologisms such 'Famfrpál' or 'Mudla'.

## 2.3 Old English

Old English is an early form of the English language. It was spoken and written by the Anglo-Saxons. Therefore, Old English can be also called Anglo-Saxon. [8] It is a West Germanic language and the period of language was from 450 to 1150. It is also known as the period of full inflections, because the endings of the verb, the adjective and the noun were maintained unimpaired. [9] Old English was not a homogeneous language, four dialects could be distinguished: Mercian, West Saxon, Norhumbrian, and Kentish. [10]

"The English language has undergone such change in the course of time that one cannot read Old English without special study." [11] The differences between Old and Modern English include primarily spelling and pronunciation, grammar and lexicon. A fundamental feature of Old English is the rarity of words derived from Latin and the absence of words from French. "The vocabulary of Old English is almost purely Germanic. A large part of this vocabulary, moreover, has disappeared from the language. When the Norman Conquest brought French into England as the language of the higher classes, much of the Old English vocabulary appropriate to literature and learning died out and was replaced later by words borrowed from French and Latin." [12] About 85 percent of Old English words are no longer in use. Nevertheless, the words which survived are the basis of modern vocabulary, for instance 'cild' (child), 'strang' (strong), 'drincan' (drink). Another feature of Old English that differs from the modern language is grammar. [13]

Unfortunately, a substantial part of the vocabulary of Old English cannot be understood by the modern reader. [14] In the Harry Potter books, the author uses a lot references to Old English and thus she revives it. However, it might be a disadvantage on account of understanding the language well.

## 2.4 Mythology

It is difficult to define the term 'myth'. Its origin is from Greek, meaning 'word' or 'tale'. "Broadly, a myth is a story of religious-philosophical content, usually a legend explicating the origin of a culture's basic elements and requisites allegorically." [15] Ever before, human tended to explain various phenomena by the idea of supernatural beings. In mythology, there are heroes and deities. The author of the Harry Potter novels, J.K. Rowling, integrated mythological motives in her books in various ways - she used mainly basic structures of mythology. One of the most typical features of mythology is the concept of the Good versus the Evil. This concept plays a crucial role in Harry Potter. Voldemort represents the Evil that has to be stopped. Such motive is very frequent in literature in general, mainly in children's literature. Harry Potter is on the side of the Good because Voldemort killed his parents. [16]

Another typical feature of mythology is the concept of hero. It has an important function, as the hero acts without fear and is afraid of nothing. Heroes differ from normal people, they usually possess special powers. Myths often illustrate special powers of the child, as a child possesses a symbolical power. In most cases they are orphans. Harry Potter is an orphan who has supernatural powers (he is a wizard) and is the only one who survived a killing curse. He has a scar on his forehead, which means that he can be distinguished from others. [17] "Carrying an outward sign is a common mythological feature of a hero as well." [18]

Many names of characters in Harry Potter reflect the concept of mythology. Since the overwhelming majority of names have not been translated into the Czech language, the thesis does not pre-eminently concentrate on those with some mythological reference.

## **2.5 Word formation**

Word formation is the particular branch of morphology which deals with the formation of new words. [19] "Word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change, which is a change in a single word's meaning. The line between word formation and semantic change is sometimes unclear; what one person views as a new use of an old word, another person might view as a new word derived from an old one and identical to it in form." [20] Many of words can be traced about eight thousand years back to the history. Some of the other words appeared during more recent times and their origins remain mysterious. [21]

There are various mechanisms of word formation, described in the following list:

### **Neologisms**

Neologisms are completely new words. "Neologisms are often created by combining already existing words or by giving words new and unique suffixes or prefixes." [22] Neologisms are dependent on acceptance by public. Once they are accepted, they become a part of a language, once they are not, they are forgotten and no longer used. [23]

In Harry Potter there are a lot of neologisms ('Quidditch', 'Nogtail', 'Bludger', 'Wormtail', 'Pensieve' etc.) and since the story turned to be very famous, some of them became a part of nowadays language, especially the word 'muggle'.

The issue of neologisms is further discussed later in the thesis (see Problems with translation).

### **Blending**

Words that are created by blending can be also called portmanteau words. The principle of blending is that two or more words are put together

to produce just one word. [24] The parts of words are sometimes morphemes. Blending is actually a combining of lexemes, which enables to form a completely new word. There are many methods of forming blended words: the beginnings of two words can be combined (cyborg – **cy**bernetic **org**anism), the beginning of one word and the end of the other word can be combined (**s**moke + **fo**g = smog) or it represents a common sequence of sounds (**mo**tor + **ho**tel = motel). [25]

Parts of blended words are not always shortened both. However, at least one part is usually cut off, for instance **web** + **log** = blog. [26] The examples of such blended words in Harry Potter books are 'animagus' (**an**imal + **magus**) or 'horcrux' (**horr**ere + **crux**).

## Acronyms

Acronyms are special types of blended words. “A typical acronym takes the first sound from each of several words and makes a new word from those initial sounds.” [27] Acronyms are pronounced like a word, for example 'NATO' (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). [28]

There appear few examples of acronyms in the Harry Potter books, for example 'O.W.L.' (a bird), which stands for the Ordinary Wizarding Levels, 'N.E.W.T.S.' (salamanders) - the Nastily Exhausting Wizarding Tests or 'S.P.E.W.' (the verb, meaning 'to vomit' or 'to eject forcefully') - the Society for the Promotion of Elvish Welfare. As a matter of interest, the acronym 'O.W.L.' was transferred to Czech language as 'N.K.Ú.' (acronym is not preserved, represents rather an abbreviation, since it is read letter after letter) – Náležitá Kouzelnická Úroveň or 'N.E.W.T.S.' as 'O.V.C.E.' (an animal) – Ohavně Vyčerpávající Celočarodějné Exameny.



## **Shortening (Clipping)**

“Shortening may take any part of a word, usually a single syllable, and omit the rest, like 'quiz' from 'inquisitive' (...).” [29] We very often use shortened word without knowing its original form, for example the word 'whiskey'. Everybody uses it but not many people know what it is shortened from. [30]

## **Back-formation**

Back formation is a type of shortening – removing seeming affixes from existing words. [31] For example 'edit' from 'editor', where the final '-or' is wrongly analyzed as a suffix (like the '-er' of 'worker', 'employer', 'builder') and is therefore treated as removable.” [32]

## **Abbreviations**

Abbreviation is a shortened word that consists of the first letters of group of words. Abbreviations are read letter by letter, it is their difference from acronyms, for example 'NBA' (National Basketball Association). [33]

## **Derivation**

Derivation is the process by which words are formed from existing words on bases of adding affixes, such as 'sweater' from 'sweat'. There are two types of derivation, namely derivation by affixation and derivation without affixation. [34]

Creating the words by derivation changes the meaning of the base. Derivation usually changes the syntactic category of words, for instance 'slow' (adjective) – 'slowly' (adverb). [35] As for derivation without affixation (also called conversion or zero derivation), no affixes are added, words look alike, only the part of speech changes, for example: 'This is a major oversight. She graduated with a major in geography.' [36]

The examples of derivation by affixation in Harry Potter are 'Bludger', 'Quaffle', 'auror', 'howler', 'Fluffy', 'Quibbler' etc. Some of them will be paid attention in the practical part of the thesis.

### **Compounding**

Compounding is the most important form of creating new words, as it is the largest source of them. [37] It is attaching two or more words together to make them work as one word. We do not change or add anything, we just attach them. Compound words can be also used with a hyphen ('child-care'). A new meaning of the word created by compounding is different from the meanings of words as separate parts of word. For example 'car park', 'doghouse', 'airship' and others. The most frequent compounds we can distinguish are noun-noun compounds, modified by adjectives, possessors or by other nouns (railway), or verb-noun compounds, formed by a verb and its object (killjoy). [38]

In the Harry Potter books, many words have been formed by compounding, for instance 'Slughorn', 'Hogwarts', 'Hufflepuff', 'Buckbeak', 'Crookshanks', 'Longbottom', 'Wormtail', 'Ravenclaw' and others.

### **Calques**

Calque is a word borrowed from another language by literal or word-for-word translation. Calques are words such as 'skyscraper', 'masterpiece' and many others. [39]

Concerning the Harry Potter books, the examples of calques appear rather in the Czech translation, as many English keywords have been translated word-for-word, for example 'Havraspár' (Ravenclaw), 'Mrzimor' (Hufflepuff) or (Lenka) 'Láskorádová' (Luna Lovegood).

## **Eponyms**

Eponyms are new words based on names. “All eponyms necessarily involve some degree of change in the meaning of the word: 'watt', for example, refers to a unit of electrical power, not to the individual who invented the steam engine.” [40] There is a wide range of eponyms because new discoveries are named for their discoverers. It happens very often that we take the name of an individual or a place and extend its scope beyond the original individual reference, i.e. word 'boy' that does not refer to a particular individual but to a class of individuals sharing relevant defining properties. [41]

Eponyms which can be found in Harry Potter are for instance 'Godric's Hollow', 'Slytherin', 'Rawenclaw', 'Gryffindor' or 'Hufflepuff'.

Despite the fact there are several types of word formations, it does not necessarily mean that words must be created with help of one of the aforementioned methods. In fantasy literature there are no boundaries and authors often have their own way of expressing themselves, especially J.K. Rowling who is known for creating new words and very often creates them just on the basis of her imagination, for example the word 'Quidditch' that might be formed from the word 'queer', suffix '-id' and the word 'ditch'.

## **2.6 Concept of translation**

Newmark defines translation as “rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that author intended the text.” [42] The most significant imperfection of any translation is that it cannot copy the original text and express the exactly same thought. Thus, “the translator cannot

afford the luxury of saying that something cannot be translated.” [43] Newmark refers to Danila Seleskovitch, an interpreter and writer, who declared: “Everything said in one language can be expressed in another – on condition that two languages belong to cultures that have reached a comparable degree of development. (...) Foreign communities have their own language structures and their own cultures, foreign individuals have their own way of thinking and therefore of expressing themselves, but all these can be explained, and as a last resort the explanation is the translation. No language, no culture is so primitive, that it cannot embrace the terms. (...)” [44]

## **2.7 Problems with translation**

“The chief difficulties in translating are lexical, non grammatical – i.e. words, collocations and fixed phrases or idioms; these included neologisms and „unfindable “words (...).“ [45] In the process of translating words, a translator can find out that he or she does not understand them or does not know how to translate them because of their complexity. Firstly, a translator should know all the possible meanings of a particular word. Secondly, words can have archaic or regional meaning, thus he or she should use appropriate dictionaries. Words can also be used ironically; therefore a translator might not understand the sense of it. [46]

Newmark introduces so-called unfindable words that may appear in a source language text. These are, from the point of view of the Harry Potter novels, mainly neologisms, names of small villages or streets that may be real or invented, names of obscure persons, proper names and symbolic meanings of words and proper names. Such words are very time-consuming for translators and sometimes seem to be insoluble. [47]

### 2.7.1 Neologisms

“Neologisms are perhaps the non-literary and the professional translator’s biggest problem.” [48] Each language acquires three thousand new words every year. Number of neologisms is increasing and majority of them have single meaning out of context. “Neologisms can be defined as newly coined lexical units or existing lexical units that acquire a new sense.” [49]

Newmark points out that brand new words do not exist. Every word is usually derived from various morphemes. The word 'quark', a fundamental particle in physics, seems to be an exception. However, the etymology of many words is unknown, so we cannot determine how they were created. [50]

“The great majority of neologisms are words derived by analogy from ancient Greek (increasingly) and Latin morphemes usually with suffixes such as -ismo, -ismus, -ija, etc., naturalised in the appropriate language.” [51]

Newmark describes the method which translators should follow when translating neologisms. Firstly, a translator must assure that given neologism is not in interfere with another, therefore he or she should also use a glossary to find out whether it is a recognised translation. Secondly, it is necessary to ensure whether a neologism yet exists in the target language culture. Thirdly, he or she should recognize whether a neologism is important or not and decide if it is worth transplanting at all. Among others, a translator must be sure that no other translation of a neologism already exists, is not trivial and might be interesting for readership. The translator’s duty is to re-create any neologism he meets in a literary text. [52] “The translator should be neither favourable nor unfavourable in his view of new words.” [53]

Newmark introduces twelve types of neologisms comprising for example new coinages, derived words, abbreviations, collocations,

eponyms, phrasal words, transferred words, acronyms, internationalisms etc. He also mentions some possible procedures of translating them, for instance transference, transliteration, naturalisation, couplets, through-translation and others. [54]

### **2.7.2 Proper names**

Proper names play an essential role in Harry Potter. They refer to mythology, history and legends. [55] “Normally, people’s first names and surnames are transferred, thus preserving their nationality, and assuming that their names have no connotations in the text.” [56] Although, where connotations and their meaning are significant, this procedure may not be so effective. Newmark stated: "First translate the word that underlies the source language proper name into the target language, and then naturalize the translated word back into a new source language proper name." [57] As for imaginative literature, names in fairy tales or children’s stories are translated mainly to be better understood in target language. [58]

According to Hervey and Higgins (linguists) there are two strategies for translating proper names. They observed that "either the name can be taken over unchanged from the source language to the target language, or it can be adopted to conform to the phonic/graphic conventions of the target language". [59] They called it *exotism*, which is comparable to literal translation, and does not include any cultural transposition. They also put forward so-called *cultural transplantation*. It is a procedure in which “source language names are replaced by indigenous target language names that are not their equivalents, but have similar cultural connotations.” [60]

Leppilhalme (linguist) suggests other strategies of translating proper nouns as the following: Retention of the name which includes using the name as such; using the name, adding some guidance or using the name, adding a detailed explanation, for instance, a footnote. Another option that Leppilhalme suggests is replacement of the name by another. It includes

replacing the name by another source language name or replacing the name by a target language name. The last option is omission of the name. When omitting the name, it is appropriate to transfer the sense by other means, for instance by a common noun and, where there is no other option, to omit the name and allusion together. [61]

The Harry Potter books series contains a great number of proper names, including the names of characters ('Albus Dumbledore', 'Rubeus Hagrid'), creatures ('Aragog', 'Buckbeak', 'Dementor'), places ('Hogsmeade', 'Diagon Alley'), houses ('Ravenclaw', 'Gryffindor'), schools ('Hogwarts', 'Beauxbatons') and others.

### **2.7.3 Alliteration**

“Alliteration refers to repetition of a particular sound in the first syllables of a series of words and/or phrases. Alliteration has historically developed largely through poetry, in which it more narrowly refers to the repetition of a consonant in any syllables (...) that are stressed.” [62] Alliteration can be distinguished from the repetition of the same sounds – consonants (some mammals are clammy) or vowels (yellow wedding bells). [63]

Rowling uses alliteration of the initial letters of words, for instance 'Quick-Quotes Quill', 'Rowena Rawenclaw', 'Shrieking Shack', 'Polyjuice potion', 'Moaning Myrtle', 'Salazar Slytherin', 'Marauder's map' etc.

Even though alliteration seems to be very attractive in literature, sometimes it is not possible to preserve it in translation because of an insufficient selection of expressions in target language.

### **2.7.4 Anagrams**

“Anagram is a rearrangement of the letters of a word or words to make another word or other words.” [64] Many anagrams can be found in

the Harry Potter books series, whereas by Czech translation the most of them unfortunately perished, since it is very demanding to preserve such language phenomenon. For instance, in Harry Potter appeared the anagram 'Tom Marvolo Riddle – I am Voldemort'. In this case, anagram is captured in the Czech version as 'Tom Rojvol Raddle – Já Lord Voldemort'. Some other examples of anagrams are the following: 'Albus Dumbledore – A bulbous meddler', 'Death Eaters – Dearest hate', 'Harry Potter – Try hero part' or 'Ministry of Magic – Straying of Mimic'. [65]

On the basis of the information given in the theoretical part, it is clear that expressions in Harry Potter constitute a manifold scale of possible word formations, origins and meanings, and advert to their uniqueness.

Some of the Newmark proposed solutions for problems such neologisms or proper names seem to be practicable in translating Harry Potter keywords, even though the best approach that translator is expected to have is an excellent familiarity with a context in the story of Harry Potter, so he or she can capture the main thought.

The greatest asset as well as problem is the translation of neologisms, proper names and alliterations, due to their frequency and complexity. They are unique and thus difficult to preserve or to be translated faithfully.



### 3 PRACTICAL PART

The practical part of the thesis deals with a detailed analysis of chosen words from the Harry Potter books that have been translated into the Czech language, and it is divided into four subchapters – names of characters, names of creatures, appellations and magic spells.

The analysis is approached in several ways. The focus is put mainly on the etymology of words, types of word formation, finding the most appropriate meaning of the individual parts of words, connections between them and the wizarding world of Harry Potter, and finding the differences between English and Czech versions.

Apart from the significance of the matter of word formation, introduced in the theoretical part, the most crucial for the practical part is also work with dictionaries and knowledge of the world of Harry Potter in general. Therefore, the practical part is accomplished primarily with the help of etymological dictionaries, namely *The Oxford library of words and phrases: III. Word Origins* by T.F.Hoad, *Etymology dictionary online* by D. Harper, *Český etymologický slovník* by Jiří Rejzek or *Český etymologický slovník jazyka českého* by Václav Machek. Furthermore, to give proper analysis and expose all possible meanings it is necessary to consult monolingual and synonym dictionaries, such as *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of current English* by A.S. Hornby, *Dictionary of English synonyms and antonyms* by Rosalind Fergusson or *Slovník českých synonym a antonym* by LINGEA.

Since the topic of the bachelor's thesis concerns with the translation of keywords in the Harry Potter books into Czech language and with the assessment of the adequacy of their translation, Czech readers were asked to express their opinion in an online questionnaire on its topic. Its main aim

was to find out whether or not people like the Czech translation of Harry Potter – their opinion to international terms and which concrete translation of words they are dissatisfied with. A questionnaire consisted of fourteen questions. There are closed questions (YES/NO) as well as the open ones. As for the results of a questionnaire, there were a lot of interesting answers. However, due to the extensive content of a questionnaire, only the most frequent and interesting answers are presented in the analysis of keywords in the practical part and further shown in appendix I.

### **3.1 Names of characters**

Most of the names of characters in Harry Potter ('Belatrix Lestrange', 'Minerva McGonagall', 'Ronald Weasley', 'Draco Malfoy' etc) are not translated into Czech language. It seems wise to leave the names in the original state, it would otherwise ruin the whole idea of them. For instance, 'Harry Potter' means Jindřich Hrnčíř in Czech language. [66] The reason why not to translate Harry Potter literally is that it is a worldwide-known word and we should not change its structure. It does not sound very attractive either. The other reason is that a lot of names in Harry Potter have some relation to mythology. Those names were thoroughly selected by J.K. Rowling and perfectly reflect the nature of characters. We should not ruin it. For example the word 'Hermione' has a relation to Greek mythology. It comes from the word 'Hermes', a son of Zeus who was clever and skilful. [67] Hermione has the same traits.

Alliteration seems to be another problem. It is J.K. Rowling's partiality. Lots of names of characters in her books are an example of it. For instance 'Severus Snape', 'Dedalus Diggle', 'Minerva McGonagall', 'Rowena Rawenclaw', 'Salazar Slytherin' or 'Dudley Dursley'. Most of them are impossible to translate because they do not have any meaning at all or when translating them, the alliteration would be lost.

Nevertheless, there are few names which have their Czech version and are worthy of analysis. According to Pavel Medek, he and his brother translated names which had some meaning in original or characterized a certain character, others were not capable of being translated. [68]

According to a field research based on a questionnaire (see appendix I), a lot of readers do not like the Czech translation of names in Harry Potter. Nevertheless, the following analysis show the close connections between words in English original and their Czech translation.

### **Albus Dumbledore (Albus Brumbál)<sup>1</sup>**

The word 'Dumbledore' represents a noun that comes from Old English, approximately from 1787, to be more specific from Devon English. It is basically a dialect word for bumblebee. Earlier, people were using the noun 'humblebee', later it was transformed to the word 'bumblebee'. The first part of the word, the verb 'to dumble', is a combination of the verbs 'to bumble', meaning 'to drone', and 'to humble', meaning 'to hum'. These expressions imitate the buzz of insects. The second part of the word 'dor' stands for 'species of fly or beetle' and comes from Old English as well. The Old English word 'dora' was probably used for imitation of humming noise.

The word 'Dumbledore' could be example of a special type of word formation. Basically, it is a compound noun, consisting of the words '**dumble**' and '**dor**', but at the ending of the word there is the suffix '-e'.

The word 'Dumbledore' excellently describes the appearance and character of the Headmaster of Hogwarts. Firstly, bumblebees are known for their long hair and Dumbledore has a long beard. Secondly, Mrs. Rowling commented on the name of the character: „Because Albus Dumbledore is very fond of music, I always imagined him as sort of humming to himself a

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<sup>1</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

lot". [69] It refers to the character of bumblebees as well – they buzz. Thirdly, Dumbledore is also known for his weakness for sweets. Bumblebees feed on nectar which is sweet. Fourthly, Dumbledore represents the good in Hogwarts because he is honest and the only one who managed to defeat Voldemort who represents the evil. Bumblebees are also recognized as the good ones – they are useful for people because they pollinate flowers and give them honey. On the basis of the mentioned common attributes of bumblebees and the Headmaster of Hogwarts, it is obvious that the name for the Headmaster was selected very thoroughly.

However, the image of Professor Albus Dumbledore can be spoiled by the fact that the word 'Dumbledore' is linked with the dialect word 'dummel' or 'dumb' (Old English), which is the adjective describing someone who is slow and stupid.

The Czech word 'Brumbál' is a literal translation because it is the old Czech expression for bumblebee just as the word 'Dumbledore'. [70] The translation of the word 'Dumbledore' therefore represents a direct equivalent. It is a compound noun and it comes from Old Czech. The word 'Brumbál' consists of '**brum**' and '**bál**'. When we analyse the individual parts of the Czech word 'Brumbál', it may seem that the meanings of these expressions are totally different from the original and might cause a misleading vision of the personality of Albus Dumbledore.

The possible reasons for that might be, for example, that 'brum' is the expression used for the sound made by bears (whose characteristics are different from those of bees). Bears are animals that people are afraid of. They do not feel safe around them because bears do not represent the good. The second part 'bál' is a colloquial expression for the word 'ples', meaning 'ball'. It can actually mislead the reader. But if we analyse it in more detail, 'brum' can lead to the verbs 'brumlat' or 'broukat', which refers to the verb 'to hum' = 'to humble' (to dumble). The word 'Brumbál' can be also

found as 'brundibár' or 'brumbár' in the Czech etymological dictionary of Václav Machek.

'Brundibár' comes from the German word 'Brummbär', whilst the first part 'brumm' means 'brumlat' and the second 'bär' stands for 'medvěd'. Bumblebees are associated with bears because of their appearance – they are shaggy and round. The famous Czech television bedtime story *Včelí medvídci* is about bumblebees but they are called little bears. 'Bál' comes from the Old French word 'baler', meaning 'to dance'. Dumbledore is known for his passion for music and bumblebees are flying and buzzing, which lead to both music and dancing.

According to a field research based on a questionnaire (see appendix I), to the question: “What do you imagine upon the word Brumbál?” respondents answered they imagined various things. Some of them are more interesting than the rest. Majority of respondents imagine a person who is very grumpy and unpleasant – let’s say rather a bad character, bear or bumblebee. They also see the connection between the word 'Brumbál' and alcohol, musical instrument, ball, something big, bulbous and round or some kind of ball. Few respondents imagine 'the dance of bears', which is essentially the literal meaning of the word 'Brumbál'. Only thirty percent of respondents (67) know what the literal translation of the word 'Brumbál' is.

Nevertheless, people who read or watch Harry Potter series do not usually occupy themselves with analysis of words. The most important is how words sound to them. However, it seems to be another problem. Whilst Dumbledore can seem like an attractive name in English, Brumbál might not have to. According to thirty five percent of respondents (see appendix I), the word 'Brumbál' is inappropriate for the character. Some of them pointed out that the word 'Brumbál' fits to the character, who is taciturn and hum to himself, but it does not go together with actor Richard Harris.

The translation is absolutely correct and does not change the thought of the original word, taking to account it is a literal translation and both words mean the same. Yet, due to differences between English and Czech languages, Czech version can seem to be a little inappropriate.

### **Moaning Myrtle (Ufňukaná Uršula)<sup>2</sup>**

Moaning Myrtle is a ghost of a girl who used to study at Hogwarts and was killed. This name is an example of alliteration. The word 'Moaning' is derived from the verb 'to **moan**', meaning 'to whine' or 'to complain', and describes Myrtle's character. She is moody, unpleasant, bawling and always complains about things. 'Myrtle' is an old expression (approximately from the fifteenth century) of Greek origin (myrtos). Myrtle is a plant and also a very common girl's name. In Mediterranean it is, among other things, a symbol of love. Despite Myrtle is very annoying, inside she is a hearty and sensitive girl.

'Ufňukaná' is the feminine adjective derived from the verb "**fňukat**", the expressive word for the verb 'to whimper'. 'Uršula' is not a common name in the Czech Republic and one of a few names beginning with the letter 'U'. The word 'Moaning' offers us many options in translation because there are several ways of expressing the meaning of this English word. If we want to preserve alliteration, we must choose the variant with the best wording. Firstly, it seems appropriate to translate the adjective and then try to find the appropriate name as well. Vladimír Medek explained that "it could also be Brečlavá Bedřicha or Fňukavá Filipína. But you can choose only one of them at last." [71] His choice of 'Ufňukaná Uršula' sounds good to readers.

The Czech translation is based on the word 'Moaning', which is very similar, and the name has been completely changed in order to preserve

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<sup>2</sup> *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (Harry Potter a Tajemná Komnata)*

alliteration. Nevertheless, such modulation does not ruin any crucial references of the original word.

### **Horace Slughorn (Horácio Křiklan)**<sup>3</sup>

Horace Slughorn is a friend of Albus Dumbledore and constitutes a good character in Harry Potter. 'Horace' is a men's proper name that comes from the Latin word 'Horatius'. The form 'Horatio' is influenced by the Italian version of the name 'Orazio'. The name 'Horace' was probably selected very thoroughly, considering the character's traits. Quintus Horatius Flaccus was a Roman poet who liked food very much and liked having friends amongst influential people, just as Horace Slughorn. [72] Further, since the beginning of the word 'Horace' is identical with the beginning of the word 'horcrux' (see below) and there are even significant connections between Horace Slughorn and horcruxes, the first name seems to fit his character even much better.

The surname 'Slughorn' is a compound noun, consisting of two parts, '**slug**' and '**horn**'. The first component of the compound, 'slug', possesses various meanings, one of them is 'a mollusc without a shell'. The word 'slug' in this case ought to represent a squat figure of Horace, his sluggish movement and face. It comes from early fifteenth century and is related to the word 'sluggard', derived from the Middle English word 'sluggi'. Other meaning of 'slug' is 'a strong drink', which might refer to his occupation – potions teacher. The second part, the word 'horn', comes from Old English and can refer to 'a horn of an animal' or 'a wind instrument' and has no relation to the character.

Yet there seems to be other interesting variant as for etymology of the word 'Slughorn'. This word can be dated back to Scottish history, thus not being a neologism. It comes from the Scottish word 'sluagh-ghairm', since 'sluah' means 'army' and 'ghairm' relates to the verb 'to cry'. [73] It can be

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<sup>3</sup> *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (Harry Potter a Princ Dvojí Krve)*

just estimated whether the Scottish etymology of word inspired J.K. Rowling itself or she devised the word herself regardless the Scottish etymology.

The word 'Horácio' represents the Czech version of the name 'Horace', which means that the relation to Quintus Horatius Flaccus is preserved. The surname 'Křiklan' offers more options of word formation. The base of the word represents the noun '**křik**', which is formed from the verb 'křičet', meaning 'to utter loudly'. 'Křik' therefore represents 'a loud cry'.

The word 'Křiklan' may be a blended word where only the first word is "cut". 'Kři-' would be therefore derived from the verb 'křičet' as well. The second part of the word, 'klan', is the expression for 'a group of people united by common characteristics'. Still, it might be also formed from the Czech expressive word 'křikloun', meaning among others 'a chatterbox'. It is the expression for a person who screams. Thus, Pavel Medek might have just changed the vowels and created the modified version of the word 'křikloun'.

There seems to be the connection between the expressions 'horn' and 'křik', as horns are musical instruments which make noise. The remaining part 'lan' constitutes just the suffix of the word, since the meaning of the word 'klan' has connection neither with the word in source language, nor with the character in the Harry Potter stories.

Although the translator used the appropriate synonym for the word 'horn', the connection with the character Horace Slughorn is unfortunately lost in the Czech version of the word. The word in the English original adverts to Slughorn's figure and movement as a slug. The Czech version refers to a person who screams a lot, which does not correspond with the character at all, since Horace Slughorn is rather a quiet and calm person.



There are many other names that have been translated into Czech language, but they are not so attractive for detailed analysis. Some of the examples of translated names follow:

- 'Luna Lovegood' as 'Lenka Láskorádová' (derived from the words 'love' and 'good', the example of calque),
- 'Gilderoy Lockhart' as 'Zlatoslav Lockhart' (only the first name was changed to its Czech equivalent),
- 'Pius Thicknesse' as 'Pius "Břichnáč' (based on the word 'thicknesse', which relates to 'someone who is fat'),
- 'Rowena Rawenclaw' as 'Rowena z Havraspáru' (Rowena is named after the house Rawenclaw, thus alliteration is lost),
- 'Salazar Slytherin' as 'Salazar Zmijozel' (Salazar was also named after the house Slytherin, alliteration is lost as well),
- 'Padfoot' as 'Tichošlápek' (the example of calque) etc.

Some names are either not translated at all, or they are added the Czech ending -ová (women's names) or any other modifications are applied, for example 'Hermione Granger' as 'Hermiona Grangerová' or 'Minerva McGonagall' as 'Minerva McGonagallová'. Some words possess some meaning but yet do not have their Czech equivalents because of their potential strangeness, for example 'Neville Longbottom' (a compound noun, the word 'long' refers to 'having great height' and the word 'bottom' to 'the deepest or lowest part of something', thus its translation would sound unnatural in the Czech language).

And finally, it is interesting to compare the Czech and Slovak versions from the point of view of translations of the keywords, primarily the names of characters. Whilst Slovak versions have not translated some of the names at

all, the Czech translators made more efforts. The following examples show the comparison of some Slovak and Czech versions of names:

- 'Sturgis Podmore' as 'Sturgis Tobolka',
- 'Stan Shunpike' as 'Stan Silnička',
- 'Madam Sprout' as 'Madam Prýtová',
- 'Rita Skeeter' as 'Rita Holoubková',
- 'Rufus Scrimgeour' as 'Rufus Brousek',
- 'Kingsley Shacklebolt' as 'Kingsley Pastorek',
- 'Dedalus Diggle' as 'Dedalus Kopál' etc. [74]

The aforementioned examples advert to an excellent work of Vladimír and Pavel Medek's and show how important translations may be for children, since for instance the name 'Stan Shunpike' is non committal for Czech readers, whilst 'Stan Silnička' may sound very likeable and children associate the character with his occupation better.

### 3.2 Names of creatures

Creatures in Harry Potter stories play a crucial role, since they are characteristic for mythology or the genre of fantasy in general. Many creatures in Harry Potter are very typical, for instance unicorns, goblins, giants, werewolves, dragons, centaurs and many others.

A lot of names of creatures have not been translated into Czech language, as 'Aragog', 'Dobby', 'Griphook', 'Nagini', 'Fawkes' and others. Though, some of them possesses some meaning and thus have been translated, for instance:

- 'Fluffy' as 'Chloupek' (based on the word itself, 'fluffy', meaning 'to be hairy'),

- 'Greyback' as 'Šedohřbet' ('Greyback' represents a compound noun, the Czech version is the example of calque),
- 'Peeves' as 'Protiva' (based on the adjective 'peeved', meaning 'to be annoyed'),
- 'Buckbeak' as 'Klofan' (based on the second component of compound, 'beak', which stands for 'the hard part of a bird's mouth') etc.

Considering the restricted amount of the Czech versions of the names of magical creatures and their curiosity, the subchapter deals only with one unusual magical creature, which is known only in the stories of Harry Potter, which is dementor.

### **Dementor (Mozkomor)**<sup>4</sup>

The word 'dementor' is a neologism and comes from the very old verb 'dement' (1540). It is formed with affixation. Its meaning is 'to drive mad' or 'to make insane'. The word 'dement' was formed from the French word '**dément**' and means 'having the mind removed'. 'Dementor' is an invention of J.K.Rowling who created it from her own experience with depression. [75]

After an encounter with dementor the victim becomes very sad and has a feeling that he or she will not be happy again. Dementors are evil creatures in the world of Harry Potter and because of them we literally drive ourselves mad. Dementors cause our sadness and bad feelings. When they appear, a fog floats around us and we cannot defend ourselves at all until we are excellent wizards and know how to use the spell against them.

The word 'mozkomor' is a special type of blended word, consisting of the beginning of the adjective '**mozkový**' (derived from the noun 'mozek', meaning 'a brain') and the noun '**mor**'. According to the etymological

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<sup>4</sup> *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (Harry Potter a Vězeň z Azkabanu)*

dictionary of Jiří Rejzek, the word 'mor' comes from the word 'mořit' and expresses something that annoys us, bothers us. It also means 'to kill', 'to grieve' and 'a death'. It is an old derivative of the word 'móros'.

The adjective 'mozkový' is used in a sense of an object that is grieved and annoyed. The word 'mozkomor' can thereby represent a grieve and fear that affects our brain and whole our personality. The word 'mor' also adverts to a fog that is being created around us while they appear.

Although the Czech version of the word is quite different, a similar meaning is preserved. According to Pavel Medek the neologism 'mozkomor' can be even found in the political dictionary. [76]

### 3.3 Appellations

Appellations are inseparable part of the books about Harry Potter and at the same time the domain of J.K. Rowling, as well as the genre of fantasy. They represent a wide scope of various proper names of objects, places, houses and many others.

The following analysis deals with the principal expressions that appear in the Harry Potter books, as the name of the famous sport and the balls which is played with, wizarding school and its four houses, name of a magical village, magical objects and other similar issues.

#### **Quidditch (Famfrpál)<sup>5</sup>**

Quidditch is a popular fictional sport in the world of Harry Potter. It is played on broomsticks with three balls and it became greatly popular. Quidditch is said to be football played in the air. But of course, game rules are quite different.

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<sup>5</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

The word 'Quidditch' could represent a compound noun, consisting of the words 'quid' and 'ditch'. However, the first part of the word 'quid' is a British slang from 1680s, meaning 'one pound sterling', which is the official name for the standard monetary unit of the United Kingdom, and thus it seems that the word 'Quidditch' was not derived from it. Therefore, the word 'Quidditch' can be determined as a neologism.

If we analyse the parts of the word in detail, we get the beginning of the word '**queer**' – the very old expression from the sixteenth century, meaning 'strange', 'peculiar' or 'ridicule', the suffix '**-id**' and the word '**ditch**'.

The word 'ditch' has various meanings and one of them is 'to drive a vehicle' (fifteenth century). Another meaning is for instance 'to get rid of something'. Both expressions 'queer' and 'ditch' come from Old English and are very appropriate, when considering their meaning. 'To drive a vehicle' is related to broomsticks - means of transport on which Quidditch is played, the expression 'to get rid of something' can relate to 'striking away a ball' and the word 'peculiar' to the originality and unusualness of the sport.

Some fans of Harry Potter also point out that the word 'Quidditch' could have been created as a combination of the balls used in the game – '**Quaffle**', '**Bludger**' and '**Snitch**' – which seems to be like a very unlikely coincidence. Although, the author herself claims that the word is her own creation after writing down several pages of words starting with the letter 'Q'. [77] It may be considered as an untruthful statement since it seems to be derived from the word 'quiddity'. It is an expression from the 1530s and means 'a real essence or nature of things.' Nevertheless, the word 'quiddity' has no relation to the fictional sport or any of its attributes, therefore the readers of Harry Potter books might be satisfied with Rowling's explanation for the origin of this word.

The Czech word 'Famfrpál' is a neologism formed by blending and sounds unnatural in Czech. It is a combination of the expressions 'famfr' and

'pál'. 'Famfr' may be derived from the word 'famfárum' which comes from the French word 'fanfaron', meaning 'a flighty person'. It may also refer to the word '**fanfára**', meaning 'a ceremonial musical theme'. It is not commonly used in Czech language – it is rather an obsolete word.

However, it is a special expression for the fictional sport in the world of Harry Potter. Firstly, it sounds peculiar and thus refers to the word 'queer', and further, when Quidditch starts, the fanfares play not only to introduce but also to accompany the match. The first part 'famfr' tells much more about Quidditch than 'queer'.

The word 'ditch' gives us an idea of driving a vehicle in English, but the Czech equivalent 'pál' is derived from the verb 'od**pá**lit', meaning 'to strike something away', most frequently a ball. During Quidditch, players strike ball called Quaffle in order to win. The one who hit the target wins.

Considering the meanings of both English and Czech versions, the Czech translation 'Famfrpál' is not an example of calque or literal translation. The translator decided to consider various relations to sport and put them together. After ascertainment that the neologism 'Quidditch' represents a very important word in Harry Potter and does not exist in a target language yet, the translator must have tried to recreate such neologism and assure it would be interesting for readers.

In a questionnaire (see appendix I), the respondents were asked what they imagine upon the word famfrpál. Majority of them imagine some kind of game (seem to be influenced by Harry Potter), a celebration, a shoe or a nose. Some of the answers are more interesting, since people see more appropriate to use the word 'Fofrpál' as a translation, which evokes the imagination of something that is very fast, which Famfrpál really is.

Obviously, the word 'Famfrpál' not only suits the nature of Harry Potter books, but it is also suitable combination of words describing the uniqueness of the game.

### **Golden Snitch (Zlatonka)**<sup>6</sup>

The Golden Snitch is the expression consisting of two words. The word 'Golden' describes the material – to be made of gold. It is formed with affixation from the adjective '**gold**'. The word 'gold' comes from Old English.

'Snitch' is a word dated back to 1785. It has various meanings and we can find it in the form of both verb and noun. The verb 'to **snitch**' means 'to inform against somebody' or 'to steal something', used in slang. The word 'Snitch' is a slang word for an informer. If we look up this expression in various dictionaries, we will find out that metaphorically, 'Snitch' can represent some object that is difficult to catch, or a goal that is difficult to achieve”.

The word 'Snitch' is also very familiar to the word 'snatch' from the early thirteenth century. The verb means 'to take away something' and the noun relates to 'a sudden grab' or 'a short period'.

All of the above mentioned meanings of words represent the exact meaning of the Golden Snitch in Harry Potter – a small golden ball which is enormously fast and is almost impossible to catch. But once a player catches it, his team wins.

The Czech version of the 'Golden Snitch' is shortened to one noun and its meaning is based on the English word 'golden'. The word 'Zlatonka' is formed from the noun '**zlato**' with affixation. Contrary to the English expression the 'Golden Snitch', the Czech version does not have any references to the word 'snitch', which seems to be a very important word in this expression. The Czech version does not give us an idea of 'something that is difficult to catch'. We imagine merely some golden object which is probably small because of the ending part '-ka'. We can find out the real purpose of this ball only when we read or watch Harry Potter.

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<sup>6</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

### **Quaffle (Camrál)**<sup>7</sup>

'Quaffle' is the noun invented by the author. This word is formed with affixation from the verb '**quaff**' (1570), which means 'to overindulge' or 'to drink heartily'. It seems to have a metaphorical meaning. The chasers try to throw the Quaffle through the rings during the game and they do it with an enthusiasm. They compete with each other and try to achieve their goal blinded with the vision of victory, which brings us to the verb 'to overindulge', meaning 'to be devoted to game overly'.

The Czech word 'Camrál' is a neologism in the form of a noun. The word is formed with affixation from the expressive verb '**camrat**', which is rarely used nowadays. The word is formed with affixation and is prolonged by the vowel '-á'. Hardly anybody knows that the verb 'camrat' does not mean only 'to blather' (expressive meaning) but even 'to get drunk'. In all probability it refers to the English expression 'to quaff', meaning 'to drink heartily'. Thus, it can be determined that the translator used the direct equivalent.

Czech expression lacks a metaphorical trace as it refers only to the verb 'to drink too much'. But the basic thought is preserved because of the specialty of Czech language.

### **Bludger (Potlounk)**<sup>8</sup>

'Bludger' is the Australian and New Zealand slang word that comes from 1919. 'Bludger' itself is the expression for a lazy person, it is also the old slang word, meaning 'a pimp', and can also represent the appellation for fish. The Australian slang can have even more meanings. The word 'Bludger'

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<sup>7</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

<sup>8</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*



means also 'a goldbricker' (term used in US Army) – 'someone who wander around'.

The word 'Bludger' might be formed from the verb '**bludge**' with affixation. The verb 'to bludge' means 'to shirk', 'to run' or 'to impose on'. It has also the relation to the verb 'to bludgeon', meaning 'to hit someone with a heavy object'. It fits to the attribute of Bludgers in Harry Potter. Their purpose is to knock somebody down from a broomstick during the Quidditch game. They are very heavy and combative. When it hits someone it can injure him or her very badly.

The Czech word 'Potlouk' represents the noun created from the verb '**potloukat se**', meaning 'to wander around', with back-formation. It fits to the character of Bludger because it wanders around and you never know when it is going to hit you.

### **Hogwarts (Bradavice)**<sup>9</sup>

'Hogwarts' is a compound noun that consists of the words 'hog' and 'warts'. The word 'hog' has lots of meanings and it is probably of British Celtic origin. In British English people use this term to speak about a castrated pig. It also stands for 'a selfish person' or the verb 'to arrogate something'. The word 'wart' is the noun which represents 'a small protuberance that can be found everywhere on the skin of people or animals'. It can also signify 'an unsightly feature' in some cases. When we put these words together, we get 'Hogwarts' – the word which can be understood mainly in one way – warts of pigs. What is interesting is that if we jumble the letters in the word 'hogwart', we get the word 'warthog', which is African wild species of pigs [78].

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<sup>9</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

J.K. Rowling thought that she made up a completely new word but a friend of her reminded her that they were together in Kew gardens<sup>10</sup> and saw lilies which are called **hogwort**.<sup>11</sup> [79] Therefore, the word 'Hogwarts' is not a neologism, since the visiting Kew Gardens had probably inspired her.

Because of the peculiarity of the word 'Hogwarts' and because there is no such expression for a plant called 'hogwort' in Czech, translator Vladimír Medek decided to translate just the second component of the compound, 'warts', with a direct equivalent.

The first part is omitted as it is an expression for pigs, does not help us in translating and does not fit to the name of a school much. Some foreign translators did not transform 'Hogwarts' into their language. They decided to use it as an international term, for example translators in Germany, Sweden or Italy. [80] According to Pavel Medek it is a shame. As he said, it is very important to translate some appellations to make children understand them better. [81] So the Czech readers read the translated name of the school thanks to Medek's brother, Vladimír, who translated it as 'Bradavice'. It seems as a brilliant name for the school of wizardry. It is interesting, it may sound funny because of the meaning of the word, and is easy to remember.

Still, according to the research based on a questionnaire (see appendix I), 'Bradavice' is the translation that people are most dissatisfied with. Some of them stated that it is an inappropriate name for a school, considering the meaning of the word.

Since there is not Czech equivalent for a plant called 'hogwort' in Czech and Vladimír Medek translated the second part of the word, the reference of the word 'Hogwarts' is lost.

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<sup>10</sup> Kew Gardens – royal botanic gardens in London

<sup>11</sup> Hogwort - plant (croton capitatus) with wooly hairs

## **Muggle (Mudla)**<sup>12</sup>

Although the word 'muggle' does not represent the particular name of any character in Harry Potter, it is integrated in this category since 'muggle' is the designation for the particular sort of people in the world of Harry Potter.

The origin of the word 'muggle' goes back to the 1920's, when it started to appear in newspapers and it comes from New Orleans. It is a colloquial expression for 'marijuana' or 'joint' and can also define 'the action of smoking it'. The formation of the word 'muggle' as such is mysterious. There seems to be some connection with the expression 'myglys' (from Welsh), meaning 'a smoking material'.

In the world of Harry Potter, muggle is an appellation for someone who does not possess magical skills and is not even aware of existence of magic. Regardless of apparent connection with the meaning of the word marijuana, J.K. Rowling claims she created this word without knowing it had already existed. She created the neologism 'muggle' by means of affixation from the noun '**mug**', British slang for silly or fool person, and '**-gle**' to make it sound softer. [82] The word itself excellently characterizes muggles in Harry Potter who does not have any idea what is happening around them, which makes them very fool and stupid from the perspective of wizards, it seems to be a reasonable claim.

The truth is that she has given it a new meaning and popularized it. Nowadays the word 'muggle' is used in various contexts with very similar meaning to the meaning of muggle in Harry Potter. For instance, the word 'muggle' is a British slang for State School pupils, a term used for non-trickers (people with no special skills) or it is used by specialized groups (hackers etc.) for people outside the group. [83] We can find the expression

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<sup>12</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

'muggle' even in the Oxford English Dictionary since 2003 with a meaning of 'a person who is lacking a skill.' [84]

In Czech language, it was not possible to find such word as 'mudla' in any kind of dictionary before the Harry Potter phenomenon. It is the example of neologism. Vladimír Medek expresses by his translation the nature of muggles as well as the author. He based this word on the meaning of the English word 'mug', which refers to the nouns 'moula' or 'trouba' in Czech. Since 'moula' or 'trouba' are rather offensive expressions, the word 'mudla' can seem as a smart option. It is the word unknown to readers and it sounds exotic.

The etymology of the word 'mudla' is mysterious and cannot be determined, since neither the basis of the word can be found in etymological dictionaries. In this case, the Czech translation successfully preserved the reference to muggles in the world of Harry Potter.

### **Horcrux (Viteál)**<sup>13</sup>

Horcruxes are dark and powerful objects in which the parts of Voldemort's soul are hidden. They represent immortality, ability to resurrect and play a fundamental role in Harry Potter. 'Horcrux' is one of the most remarkable words from the point of view of its origin and meaning. As the author did not explain how precisely she created such a word, there are many options how it may be done.

The first possibility is that the word 'horcrux' comes from the French words 'dehors', meaning 'outside', and 'crux', meaning 'cross' (a word from 1814, Latin). When we put it together, we get 'outside the cross' - it is a collocation that could metaphorically mean to be immortal or impossible to

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<sup>13</sup> *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (Harry Potter a Princ Dvojí Krve)*

be killed. This is true for the books because as long as someone have horcruxes, he or she is perfectly safe from death.

Another option seems to be a composition of the English word 'hore', meaning 'a filth', 'an impurity', and 'crux', meaning 'an essence' or 'a core'. Essence of individual is considered to be a human soul. As a result, we get a formulation 'an impure soul'. The one who wants to create a horcrux must kill somebody. That makes his soul impure and dishonest.

The other possibility is that the part 'hor' could have been used as a shortening. It may represent a contraction from '**h**orrible' – the word that come from the Latin word 'horribilis' (thirteenth century), signifying something 'fearful', 'terrible' or 'monstrous'. It could also have been shortened from the word 'horrid' (sixteenth century), meaning 'repulsive' or 'awful'. Both expressions are derived from the Latin word 'horrere' that stands for 'a horror'.

The essence of horror plays also a significant role as horcruxes represent terrifying objects, hiding evil and hate inside themselves. 'Hor' can also denote a contraction from the word 'horreum' which is 'a type of warehouse'. 'Hor' could express in this meaning 'the action of storing something' - to hide something in safety – in Harry Potter books it is a soul. By killing someone the person literally hide a part of his or her soul into some object.

The word '**crux**' is defined as 'a puzzling' or 'apparently insoluble problem' as well. Because it is almost impossible to destroy such an object and even though we know how, we need not succeed.

The expression has its own meaning even in Egyptian mythology. Horus was a son of the Egyptian God Osiris who became a God of the Death. He was also known as ankh - the symbol of life. [85] And it brings us again back to the meaning of immortality.

Perhaps, every possible origin of the word 'horcrux' is justifiable and describes well the nature of horcruxes. Provable is that the word 'horcrux' is a blended word, consisting of two words. Although it is the word created by the author, the idea of horcruxes is not new. It had appeared before in Tolkien's Middle Earth, where he introduces a similar object. [86]

Unfortunately, the Czech version of the word does not have a lot of meanings. Though, Czech readers might at least learn a new word. Many translators have not transformed the word into their language at all. [87] However, Pavel Medek has translated it as 'viteál', and Czech readers can in this way have a vision what horcrux really is. The translation is very suitable as the word 'viteál' is created from the adjective '**vitální**' - something that is full of life, which comes from the Latin word 'vita', meaning 'life'. As it was already written, horcruxes are hiding someone's soul inside them – they are practically living things, therefore the Czech version of the word seems to be more than appropriate.

### **Gryffindor (Nebelvír)**<sup>14</sup>

Gryffindor is one of the four houses of Hogwarts. Every house has its peculiar history, symbol and feature. Gryffindor was named after Godric Gryffindor, one of the former headmasters of Hogwarts, and therefore the word 'Gryffindor' represents an eponym. Gryffindor students are known for their bravery and honesty, the colours of house are gold and red and its element is fire.

Griffin is a mythical powerful creature, a winged lion. It was firstly used in the beginning of the thirteenth century as a surname. It is a loanword that originates from the French expression '**gryffin d'or**', and can be literally translated as 'golden griffin'. These mythical creatures reflect the character of students by their bravery, courage, honesty (they are known as guardians

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<sup>14</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

of good things) and thus 'Gryffindor' is very appropriate for the name of the house. [88]

According to a questionnaire (see appendix I), most respondents (about 65 percent) consider Gryffindor to be their most favourite house in Hogwarts.

The proper name 'Nebelvír' is a neologism that consists of the noun '**nebe**', meaning 'sky', and the adjective '**lví**' derived from the noun 'lev', meaning 'lion'. When we change the order of the word 'nebelví', we get 'lví nebe'. Literally, it means 'a lion's sky'. It perfectly refers to 'a winged lion' and to the fact that griffin was a king of Earth and Heavens, as was mentioned in the previous paragraph. The word ending '-r' is the suffix. It is necessary to add it at the end of the word, as it changes the adjective to the noun and forms the final form of the expression.

### **Ravenclaw (Havraspár)**<sup>15</sup>

The word 'Ravenclaw' is a compound noun – a combination of the words 'raven' and 'claw'. Ravenclaw was named after Rowena Ravenclaw (the example of alliteration, which is lost in the Czech translation Rowena z Havraspáru) – a powerful witch, its colours are blue and bronze. It is another example of eponym. Its element is air and a raven is the Ravenclaw's symbol. Ravenclaw students are distinguished by their wisdom and creativity.

The word '**raven**' exists as a noun, an adjective and a verb. As a noun it represents a black and well-known bird, particularly because of Edgar Allan Poe's poem *The Raven*. These birds have always been symbols of folklore and mythology. They also appear frequently in movies or books (Stephen King, Charles Dickens, J.R.R. Tolkien) as symbols of death

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<sup>15</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

because of their black feathers and feeding on carrion. The meaning of ravens varies depending on culture. For instance, in Sweden they were known as ghosts of people who were murdered, in Denmark they were considered crafty and supernatural. In some areas of America they were revered as God. [89] 'Raven' as a symbol of the house in Harry Potter is believed to mean 'clever', as Ravenclaw students themselves are clever. 'Raven' comes from Old English word 'hræfn', the expression that was used as a personal name a long time ago. Finally, the word 'raven' in the form of an adjective signifies something 'black' and 'shiny' – and in the form of a verb means 'to devour, seek, eat ravenously'.

The word '**claw**', the second part of a compound, is the Old English expression, as well. As a noun it represents the end of animals' toes or fingers, with help of which they can grab and hold things. As a verb it means 'to attack, grab, dig'.

'Ravenclaw' as a compound word used in Harry Potter books can express 'raven's claws' - intelligence with which Ravenclaw students reach their success. It may also reflect just the traits of ravens themselves – cleverness, playfulness and liking exploring things. Both of them seem to be appropriate explanations of the word. [90]

The word 'Havraspár' was made by blending from the words '**havran**' and '**spár**'. Raven is actually a bird known as krkavec in Czech language. Havran has its own expression in English – 'a rook'. But it is not an invention of Vladimír Medek. It has always been traditionally translated as havran instead of krkavec. The poem of Edgar Allan Poe, *The Raven*, is also translated as *Havran*. The word 'spár' is a literary expression for the words 'talon' or 'pounce'. In Old Czech language was used the word 'čpár' in the meaning of 'cloven hoof'.

The Czech translation 'Havraspár' is an example of calque, since the components of the compound 'Ravenclaw' have been translated literally and



word by word. Thus, the meaning is not changed at all and references are completely preserved.

### **Hufflepuff (Mrzimor)**<sup>16</sup>

Hufflepuff is the third house in Hogwarts. It was named after the professor Helga Hufflepuff (eponym). Hufflepuff is distinctive for accepting all students regardless of their skills and abilities – they are thereby considered to be loyal and hard-working. Colours of the house are yellow and grey. If we analyse the word 'Hufflepuff', we get the words '**huff**' and '**puff**', which can represent a special type of compound noun, with adding '-le' between them.

The word 'huff' comes from the sixteenth century. As a noun, it stands for 'pique' or 'the state of anger'. As a verb, it means 'to become angry, to make noisy threats, to inflate'. The word 'puff' comes from the Old English expression 'pyffian' – 'an act of puffing' - and has various meanings. 'Puff' as a noun expresses 'exhalation of breath, emission of air or smoke, propagation, advertising, rude expression for gay, pastry.' As a verb, it stands for 'to breathe forcefully, smoke, blow in puffs, publicize with exorbitant price, fill with pride.'

'Hufflepuff' as a word has no precise meaning. We can only imagine what it stands for. The truth is that the word 'Hufflepuff' does reflect anger and smoking.

The Czech version of this expression might be derived from the words '**mrzet**' and '**mor**'. The original meaning of the verb 'mrzet' is 'to freeze', meaning 'to be unpleasant'.

As there is a picture of a badger on the Hufflepuff's coat of arms, it could refer to its character. According to superstitions, badgers are known as lazy and grumpy animals. People often say about a lazy person who just sits

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<sup>16</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

at home and does not want to go anywhere, that he or she is hidden like a badger. [91] The part 'mrzi' is probably derived from the verb 'mrzet' or the noun 'mrzout' - someone who is lazy and grumpy, just like a badger in superstitions.

On the other hand, students of Hufflepuff are said to be hard-working. And that would not be in accordance with the character of badgers in superstitions, where they are said to be the opposite of hard-working. The truth is that badgers are considered to be social creatures and they live together, not alone. [92] Such behaviour of badgers refers to the character of students, as they are kind and social as well.

The word 'mor' comes from the verb 'mořit', which matches with the word 'puff', because both expressions have something to do with fog or smoke. Since the word 'huff' stands for 'a fit of anger or annoyance', the Czech equivalent 'mrzet' seems to be appropriate. Thus, the word 'Mrzimor' might be considered as a calque.

Nevertheless, both 'Hufflepuff' and 'Mrzimor' give the impression of negative words, whereas wizards there are known as very pleasant and good people. In this case, both expressions do not precisely reflect the nature of the house's students.

### **Slytherin (Zmijozel)**<sup>17</sup>

Slytherin (eponym) is the fourth house in Hogwarts. It was founded by Salazar Slytherin, a wizard who did not want to accept muggle-born<sup>18</sup> students to Hogwarts. He wanted to accept just pure-blood students. Colours of the house are silver and green, its symbol is a snake mainly because Salazar Slytherin was able to speak with snakes and the house's

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<sup>17</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

<sup>18</sup> Muggle-born – term which is used for a wizard or witch who was born to two non-magical parents

element is water. Students who study at Slytherin are ambitious, clever and cunning.

'Slytherin' is not an invented word itself. It is just a shortened version of the word '**slithering**' derived from the verb 'to slither', meaning 'to move along the ground like a snake'. The word 'slither' comes from the Old English expression 'slidrian', which is a form of 'slidan' = 'to slide'. It represents both the symbol of Slytherin and the character of students because many students are spiteful and poisonous as a snake. The word is created by affixation with a modification from the vowel 'i' to the vowel 'y'.

The Czech version of 'Slytherin' is 'Zmijozel'. It consists of the words 'zmije' and 'zlo' and may represent a special type of blended word. It does not proceed from the original meaning 'to slide'. Though, it references to the symbol of Slytherin – a snake. The word '**zmije**' is not a literal translation of the word 'snake', but snake species. It comes from the word 'země' which adverts that zmije is a terrestrial animal. 'Zlo' is not included in the word 'Slytherin' either, but is appropriate because it reflects perfectly the character of Slytherin students. The adjective '**zlý**' can signify 'impertinent, rude, heartless', which, undoubtedly, many Slytherin students are.

### **Quick-Quotes Quill (Rychlobrk)**<sup>19</sup>

The English expression 'Quick-Quotes Quill' is an example of alliteration. In the Harry Potter books series Quick-Quotes Quill is a quill that writes very fast by oneself as a reporter dictates.

The first word represents a compound noun with the use of hyphen. The adjective '**quick**' comes from the Old English expression 'cwic', meaning 'living' or 'reacting immediately'. The word '**quote**', which is used in plural in the appellation for the object, comes from late fourteen century with the

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<sup>19</sup> *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Harry Potter a Ohnivý Pohár)*

origin in the Latin word 'quotus' and can represent both a noun and a verb. The meaning of the verb 'quote' is 'to repeat or copy the words' or 'to mark', the meaning of the noun is 'quotation mark' or 'saying'. As a whole, the compound 'quick-quote' stands for 'something that takes notes very fast and immediately' and also adverts to the fact that the object looks like 'a living thing'.

The last word '**quill**' comes from the beginning of the fifteenth century from the Low German word 'quiele' and is of unknown origin. The word 'quill' has various meanings. However, considering the function and the appearance of the object Quick-Quotes Quill in Harry Potter, it stands for 'an old-fashioned writing pen made from a bird's feather'.

The Czech translation of the expression 'Quick-Quotes Quill' unfortunately does not preserve alliteration, when three words become just one word. Nevertheless, the meaning of the word is preserved.

'Rychlobrk' represents a compound noun, consisting of the adverb 'rychlo', which is the Czech expression for the adjective 'quick' used with the hyphen, and the noun 'brk'.

The adverb 'rychlo' is derived from the Czech adjective '**rychlý**', meaning 'fast', and have origins in the Lithuanian expression 'rušėti' that stands for 'something that is movable'. The development of the word 'rychlý' is interesting, as it originally grew out of the adjective 'agitated' or 'stormy'.

The noun '**brk**' is of an unknown origin but it is supposed to have its origin in the Indo-European word 'bher', meaning 'sharp'. It is a direct equivalent of the word 'quill' in the meaning of 'a writing pen made from a bird's feather'.

As a whole, the Czech translation lacks the information about the verb 'to mark'. However, the word 'Rychlobrk' is self-explanatory and sufficient for the conception of the object.

### **Marauder's map (Pobertův pláněk)**<sup>20</sup>

The Marauder's map is a magical document that reveals all places and location of every person in Hogwarts. A person who wants to use the Marauder's map must touch it with a wand and say: "I solemnly swear that I am up to no good." Then, the map reveals itself. The phrase that must be used to reveal the map indicates that use of the Marauder's map is not honourable and neither allowed.

The expression 'Marauder's map' is another example of alliteration. The word 'marauder', used in a possessive form of the appellation for a magical object, represents a noun that comes from 1690s from the verb 'to maraud', originally from the French dialectal word 'maraud'. The word popularized in several languages such German or Spanish during the Thirty Years War. The meaning of the verb 'maraud' is 'to raid in search of plunder', therefore the noun 'marauder' stands for 'someone who plunders', which, in general, means 'to do something bad.' The word 'marauder' is another expression for the word 'looter'. Marauder is a thief which attack for a loot.

The word 'map' comes from 1520s and it is a shortening of the Middle English word 'mapemounde', meaning 'map of the world'. First elements of the word appeared in the Latin word 'mappa', meaning 'napkin' or 'cloth'. The meaning of the word 'map' is 'a drawing of an area that shows the position of things', which relates to the function of the Marauder's map in Harry Potter.

The Czech translation 'Pobertův pláněk' has preserved alliteration. According to a field research based on a questionnaire (see appendix I), some people do not like the Czech expression 'Pobertův pláněk'. It might be on the account of the word 'poberta', which sounds peculiar in Czech language.

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<sup>20</sup> *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (Harry Potter a Vězeň z Azkabanu)*

The word 'poberta' is actually a synonym for the word 'thief' or 'rubber', which most of people do not know. It is used in a possessive form in Harry Potter. Unfortunately, such words are to be found neither in the etymological dictionary of Jiří Rejzek, nor in the etymological dictionary of Václav Machek, so it can be assumed that the origin is unknown.

The word 'plánek' is a diminutive of the noun 'plán', which comes from the French expression 'plan' influenced by the Latin word 'planta', meaning 'footprint'.

### **Hogsmeade (Prasinky)**<sup>21</sup>

Hogsmeade is the only wizarding village in Britain in Harry Potter. It is a magical small village with shops and cottages. The neologism 'Hogsmeade' is a special type of a compound noun, consisting of two components, '**hog**' (used in plural) and '**mead**', and at the end of the word there is the suffix '-e'.

The expression 'hog' was already analysed above (see the analysis of the word 'Hogwarts'). The word 'meade' stands for 'an alcoholic beverage made from fermented honey and water'. It comes from the Old English expression 'medu'.

The combination of such words as 'hog' and 'mead' is quite mysterious. In Hogsmeade, there is a sweet shop named Honeydukes, where students can buy anything sweet they can think of, and a pub called The Three Broomsticks, where they can have a butterbear. Maybe, on account of that, there is a word such 'mead' in the name of a village. The word 'hog' can refer to the pub in Hogsmeade called The Hog's Head.

According to a questionnaire (see appendix I), few people do not like the Czech version of the proper name 'Hogsmeade' – 'Prasinky'. The word

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<sup>21</sup> *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter a Kámen Mudrců)*

'Prasinky' is derived from the word 'prase', meaning 'a pig'. It is based on the English version of the word 'hog'. 'Prasinky' is a diminutive of the word 'prase', which is based on the Indo-European word 'porko'.

The word 'mead' has not been transferred at all. The translation is based only on the first component of a compound noun 'Hogsmeade'. Unfortunately, some clear connection between both 'Hogsmeade' and 'Prasinky' with a magical village is missing.

### 3.4 Magic Spells

Magic spells represent very important part of Harry Potter, since it is a fantasy story about wizards. The older the students in Hogwarts are, the more difficult spells they learn to use. The absolute majority of magic spells was not translated into Czech language. Most of them are based on Latin [93], for example 'Avada Kedavra', 'Accio', 'Alohomora', 'Expecto Patronum', 'Lumos', 'Imperio', 'Wingardium Leviosa' and others. Vladimír and Pavel Medek's decided to translate only those that have some meaning in Czech language.

Nevertheless, the following analysis deals with three of them, as they seem to be interesting from the point of view of the differences between English and Czech language.

#### **Stupefy (Mdloby na tebe)**<sup>22</sup>

Stupefy is a stunning magic spell that is used for self-defence. It literally stuns someone and a victim falls unconscious. The word 'Stupefy' is formed with back-formation from the Middle French word '**stupéfier**', which is dated back to 1510s. Its meaning is 'to dull the senses' or 'to make

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<sup>22</sup> *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Harry Potter a Ohnivý Pohár)*

someone unable to feel properly'. In one word it means 'to stun' or 'to daze' somebody.

The Czech version of the spell is much longer. The translator decided to translate it as a longer expression, consisting of three words, since the Czech direct equivalent seems to be inappropriate in translation, for instance the verbs 'omráčit' or 'omdlít'.

The expression 'Mdloby na tebe' does not change the meaning at all. Actually, the advantage of the Czech version is that it is aimed straight to a victim of the spell thanks to used second person singular (alternatively plural). The word '**mdloba**' is assumed to come from the Polish word 'mdly' and signifies 'unconsciousness'.

Despite the fact that some Czech fans of Harry Potter might not like the translation of the spell Stupefy, it seems to be appropriate that brothers Medek's did translate it into Czech language, as it possesses some meaning and gives us the opportunity to understand it in our mother tongue and to have our own version of the spell.

### **Muffliato (Ševelissimo)**<sup>23</sup>

The magic spell Muffliato is used to ensure privacy. In other words, it is used when someone does not want others to hear him or her, so he or she can talk loudly and no one around cannot hear anything. The word is formed with affixation from the verb '**muffle**', meaning 'to wrap something up to deaden sound' or 'to lower a voice'. It comes from early fifteenth century. It might be formed with the suffix '**-ato**', which comes from the Latin suffix 'atus'.

The Czech version of the word 'Muffliato' has the same meaning. 'Ševelissimo' is formed with affixation from the verb '**švelit**', which has

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<sup>23</sup> *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (Harry Potter a Princ Dvojí Krve)*



various meanings, for instance 'to twitter' or 'to whisper'. In this case, 'to whisper' is the closest meaning. The word 'ševelit' is not used much in Czech language nowadays. It is rather an obsolete word.

The translator tried to find an appropriate equivalent for the verb 'muffle' and after he succeeded, he added the interesting suffix '**-ísimo**', which is the Spanish suffix expressing superlative. [94] The consonant 's' is doubled as well as the consonant 'f' in the English original.

The Czech version sounds as much interesting as the word 'Muffliato' and gives us a better idea of the meaning.

### **Scourgify (Pulírexo)**<sup>24</sup>

Scourgify is a spell that is used for cleaning some object. One option is that it is formed with affixation from the word '**scourge**'. As a noun, the meaning of the word 'scourge' is a 'whip used to inflict punishment'. As a verb, the meaning is 'to whip someone' or 'to punish'. Taking into consideration the purpose of the spell, this option can be rejected.

Another option is that it is formed with affixation from the word 'scour', which comes from the beginning of the fourteen century from the Middle Dutch word 'scuren', meaning 'to clean'. The ending of word represents the suffix '**-ify**', which relates to 'make something be in a particular state or condition'. Therefore, the word 'Scourgify', with the adding of the consonant 'g', seems to stand for the expression 'to make clean'.

The Czech version of the magic spell possesses the Czech root of the verb '**pulírovat**', meaning 'to polish', which is of Latin origin – from the Latin word 'polire'. The Czech version preserves the meaning and by the suffix 'exo' makes the word sound exotic.

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<sup>24</sup> *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Harry Potter a Ohnivý Pohár)*

Some other magic spells that have been translated into Czech language are for instance:

- 'Obliviate' as 'Zapomeň(te)' (based on the Latin word 'oblivio', meaning 'to forget'),
- 'Eat slugs' as 'Žer slimáky' (direct translation, the Czech version of the verb 'žrát' is more expressive and colloquial than the English version 'to eat').

In the end of the practical part of the thesis, it ought to be stated that according to a questionnaire (see appendix I), most of the respondents (about 90 percent - 201 respondents) like the translation of brothers Vladimír and Pavel Medek's. Though, some of them would prefer to preserve international meanings such 'Hogwarts' or 'Quidditch', whilst some of them suggested to state some explanatory notes in the end of a book. Some of the respondents do not like the approach of brothers Medek's, for instance they claim if 'Luna Lovegood' is translated as 'Lenka Láskorádová', then Harry Potter ought to be translated as Jindra Hrnčír as well. Their opinion is that once a translator has transformed some name into Czech, then all the names ought to be transformed.

## 4 CONCLUSION

The aim of the thesis was to analyse English and Czech versions of keywords that appear in the Harry Potter books in order to find the references to the magical world of Harry Potter and differences between both versions. The main aim was to find to what extent the Czech translation transformed the thoughts and references of keywords in original.

The thesis was divided into two parts - theoretical and practical. In the theoretical part, the story of Harry Potter is introduced in general together with its language, author and Czech translators. It also dealt with the concept of mythology, Old English, types of word formation and problems with translating neologisms, alliteration and others. The findings of the theoretical part were later applied in the practical part, where the analysis of twenty-one keywords from the Harry Potter books, divided into four groups: names of characters, names of creatures, appellations and magic spells, was given.

Taking into consideration that there are many attractive keywords in Harry Potter that are worth of analysis and considering the limitations of the bachelor's thesis, the thesis dealt only with those words that seemed to be most attractive or crucial for the story of Harry Potter. In the first subchapter, three proper names were analysed. In the subchapter dealing with the names of creatures, only one word was analysed. The third subchapter dedicated to appellations, was the most extensive one, as it dealt with the analysis of fourteen words. The last subchapter dealt with the analysis of three interesting magic spells.

Further, in the end of every subchapter of the practical part, other examples of English keywords and their Czech equivalents were stated in

order to give a better idea of the differences between Czech and English versions.

The analysis was fulfilled with the help of etymological, monolingual and bilingual dictionaries and other sources that were necessary in order to find the hidden references in chosen words. The analysis was based mainly on the theory of word formation, since the concept of mythology, Old English or problems with translating neologisms or proper nouns were given attention to familiarize with the characteristics of the Harry Potter keywords.

On the basis of the given analysis of twenty-one words described in detail in the practical part of the thesis, the conclusion can be drawn. Even though any translation always changes the original thought and modifies it somehow, most expressions in Harry Potter that were analysed do not change the original thought completely.

Considering a lot of references to mythology or history and the differences between English and Czech language, it was not possible to include every thought that is hidden in the keywords. Thus, some references have been unfortunately lost, for instance the proper name 'Horace Slughorn' possesses the reference to the character in the world of Harry Potter, but the Czech translation 'Horácio Křiklan' does not. Further, the word 'Hogwarts' has a reference to a hogwort plant, whilst the Czech version 'Bradavice' is just based on the second part of the word 'Hogwarts'. As for the word 'horcrux', it is a very interesting word from the point of view of references and various meanings. The Czech equivalent, 'viteál', lacks all of it, even the attractive wording of the word 'horcrux', but at least preserves a hidden meaning of the magical object.

Therefore, regardless of all the disadvantages of the Czech translation of Harry Potter, the work of Vladimír and Pavel Medek's is, in my opinion, high-rated, as they tried to preserve every meaning, to give readers a better idea of every word that seemed possible to translate and thus, Czech

language possesses some new neologisms and expressions that appear to be our privilege, since they enrich the Czech language.

Considering the limitations of the bachelor's thesis, only twenty-one words were analysed. Since there are many more attractive keywords in the Harry Potter books, this theme can be an inspiration for further study.

## 5 ENDNOTES

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**Picture 11**

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## **7 ABSTRACT**

The aim of the Bachelor's thesis was to do a comparative research, concerning chosen Harry Potter keywords in English and Czech language, to discover differences in both versions and to find out to what extent the thoughts and references hidden in original keywords are lost in their Czech translation.

The thesis is divided into several parts. The theoretical part introduces the story and language of Harry Potter, some examples of types of word formation and some issues that relate to translation. In the practical part detailed analyses are given on the basis of various types of dictionaries and references to Harry Potter stories. The Bachelor's thesis might help readers and fans of Harry Potter to understand the essence of chosen keywords better and to familiarize them with the approach to translation of individual words that brothers Medek's decided to apply.

## 8 RESUMÉ

Cílem této bakalářské práce bylo provést srovnávací výzkum, týkající se vybraných klíčových slov z knih o Harrym Potterovi v anglickém a českém jazyce, s účelem objevit rozdíly mezi oběma verzemi a zjistit, do jaké míry jsou myšlenky a reference skryté v původních klíčových slovech ztraceny v jejich českém překladu.

Práce je rozdělena do několika částí. Teoretická část seznamuje s příběhem a jazykem knih o Harrym Potterovi, s některými typy slovo tvorby a některými dalšími problémy, týkajícími se překladu. V praktické části jsou provedeny analýzy několika vybraných slov, a to za pomoci různých druhů slovníků a referencí k příběhu Harryho Pottera. Tato bakalářská práce by měla pomoci čtenářům a fanouškům Harryho Pottera lépe porozumět podstatě vybraných klíčových slov a seznámit je s přístupem k jejich překladu jednotlivých slov, který uplatnili bratři Medkové.

## **9 APPENDICES**

### **List of appendices**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Appendix I:   | A questionnaire: The Czech translation of Harry Potter |
| Appendix II:  | Glossary of keywords                                   |
| Appendix III: | Pictures   |

## **Appendix I - Questionnaire**

**Topic of research:** The Czech translation of Harry Potter

**Number of respondents:** 224

**Time of research:** 11. 03. 2012 – 23. 03. 2012

### ***1. What do you imagine upon the word 'brumbál' ?***

Respondents most often imagine a grumpy person, bumblebee, bear, something round and bulbous, old man, alcoholic, musical instrument, the ball of bears.

### ***2. In your opinion, does the word 'brumbál' fit to the Headmaster of Hogwarts as such?***

**64%** of respondents think it fits to the Headmaster of Hogwarts, remaining **36%** do not.

### ***3. Do you know what literal translation of the word 'brumbál' is?***

The overwhelming majority of respondents (**70%**) do not know the literal translation.

### ***4. What do you imagine upon the word 'famfrpál' ?***

Respondents mostly imagine some game, nose, carnival, tongue-twister, nose, something funny and fast or slipper.

**5. Do you agree with the assertion of Pavel Medek that as many words as possible ought to be transformed to target language, to make it more understandable for children or readers in general? Or do you prefer to preserve international terms?**

Answers were balanced, one half of people prefer international terms other half prefers translation to target language, especially because of children.

**6. Is there any word in Harry Potter, translation of which you do not like?**

30% of respondents answered that there is such word.

**7. If there is such a word, what concrete one is it?**

Respondents stated words like Bradavice, viteál, Lenka Láskorádová, Brumbál, Famfrpál, Prasinky, Pobertův plánek, Nebelvír, Zmijozel, Havraspár, Mrzimor.

**8. Have you read any of Harry Potter books in Czech language?**

The overwhelming majority of respondents (87%) have read some Harry Potter books in Czech language.

**9. Have you read any of Harry Potter books in English language?**

In contrast to the question number 8, only 38% of respondents have read some Harry Potter books in original.

**10. If the case you have, do you find the original to be better than its Czech translation?**

Answers were quite balanced, **44%** of those who have read both English and Czech version of Harry Potter think that the original is better. Remaining **56%** do not think so.

**11. Do you think that the translation of Harry Potter change the original thought of words somehow?**

**43%** of respondents believe the translation changes the original thought somehow.

**12. What is your favourite house in Hogwarts?**

The most favourite house is Nebelvír (**66%**), then follows Zmijozel with **16%** and Havraspár with **15%**. The least favourite is Mrzimor (**4%**).

**13. Do you like the translation of brothers Vladimír and Pavel Medek's?**

The overwhelming majority (**91%**) like the translation of brothers Medek's.

**14. If you do not, what specifically you do not like about the translation?**

Mostly, respondents do not like literal translation of words, the translation of names and substitution of words.

## Appendix II

- **Albus Dumbledore (Albus Brumbál)**

The Headmaster of Hogwarts who represents the good and is the only one who Voldemort (evil wizard) is afraid of.

- **Moaning Myrtle (Ufňukaná Uršula)**

A ghost of a girl who was murdered in a washroom in Hogwarts and therefore she haunts there. She is known for her bad mood and incessant whining.

- **Horace Slughorn (Horácio Křiklan)**

Potions master at Hogwarts and a friend of Albus Dumbledore. He is known for his partiality for food and making connections with famous people.

- **Dementor (Mozkomor)**

Evil creatures who feed on human souls. When they appear around people they cause their depressive mood. People feel like they will never be happy again. Dementors can easily kill people until they use the effective spell against them.

- **Quidditch (Famfrpál)**

A fictional game which is very famous in the world of Harry Potter. It is played on broomsticks with three balls.

- **Golden Snitch (Zlatonka)**

It is a ball used during Quidditch. The Golden Snitch is golden with silver wings and flies very fast. It represents a very important ball in game since the one who catches it wins a match for his or her team.



- **Quaffle (Camrál)**

The second ball used in Quidditch. The Quaffle is a ball which players throw through one of three rings to score a goal. The Quaffle is the only ball which is designated for game as such.

- **Bludger (Potlout)**

It is a heavy round ball made from iron. The Bludger chases players and tries to push them down from broomsticks.

- **Hogwarts (Bradavice)**

A wizarding school in which the magical arts are taught. Hogwarts can be found in the mountains and is considered one of the famous magical institutions in the wizarding world.

- **Muggle (Mudla)**

Muggles are people who do not possess any magical skills and are not even aware of the magical world that surrounds them.

- **Horcrux (Viteál)**

A magical object which is used to hide a part of somebody's soul inside it and therefore it ensures immortality.

- **Gryffindor (Nebelvír)**

One of the four houses of Hogwarts school founded by Godric Gryffindor. Students in Gryffindor can be recognized by their bravery and honesty.

- **Ravenclaw (Havraspár)**

The second house of Hogwarts school founded by Rowena Ravenclaw. Ravenclaw students are known for their wisdom.

- **Hufflepuff (Mrzimor)**

The third house of Hogwarts school founded by Helga Hufflepuff. Hufflepuff students can be distinguished by their loyalty and patience.

- **Slytherin (Zmijozel)**

The fourth house of Hogwarts school founded by Salazar Slytherin. Students of Slytherin are ambitious and cunning.

- **Quick-Quotes Quill (Rychlobrk)**

A magical quill that writes automatically as someone speaks. It writes very quick and not verbatim.

- **Marauder's map (Pobertův pláněk)**

It is a magical document that reveals every corner of Hogwarts and a location of every person.

- **Hogsmeade (Prasinky)**

Hogsmeade represents the only wizarding village in Britain. It's a favourite place both of students and teachers as Hogsmeade is a village with many shops and pubs.

- **Stupefy (Mdloby na tebe)**

A magical spell that is used to render a victim unconscious.

- **Muffliato (Ševelissimo)**

A magical spell that fills a surrounding area with buzzing in order to provide privacy for conversation.

- **Scourgify (Pulírexo)**

A magical spell used for clearing some object.

## Appendix III



MS 5413/1  
Thomas Taylor: Original drawing of Albus Dumbledore for the back cover of  
J.K. Rowling: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's stone. England 1997.

**Picture 1. *Albus Dumbledore***



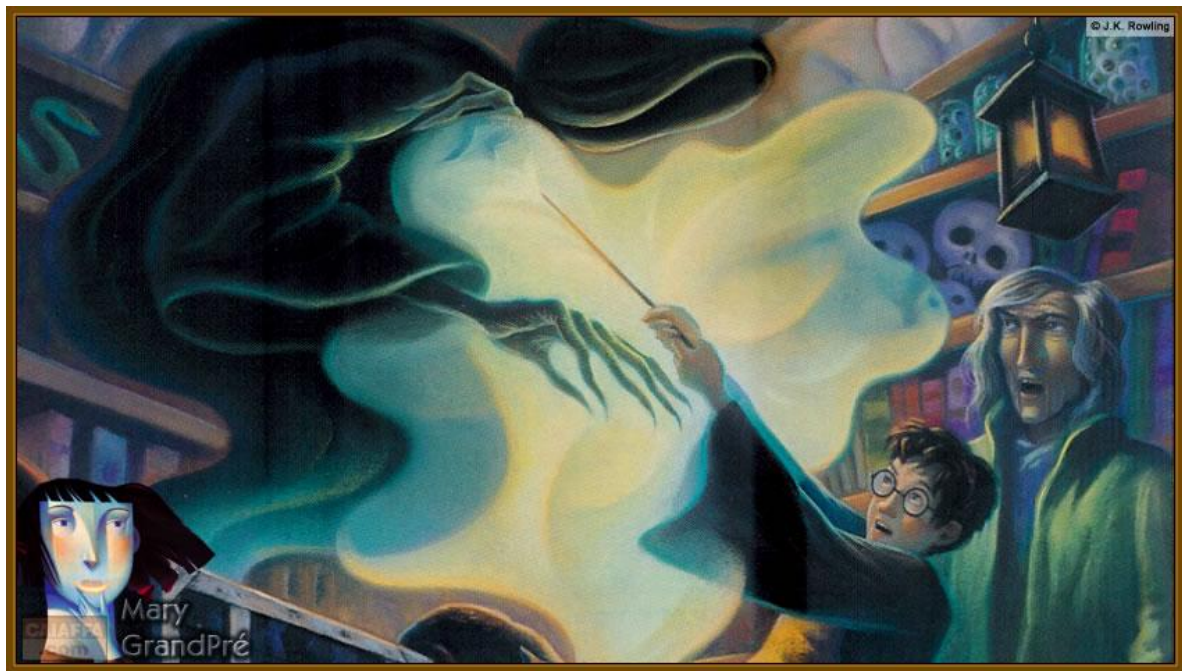
**Picture 3. *Moaning Myrtle***



**Picture 2. *Horace Slughorn***



**Picture 4. *Harry Potter***



Picture 5. *Dementor*



Picture 6. *Quidditch: Players are trying to catch the Golden Snitch*





Picture 7. *The house of Gryffindor*



Picture 8. *The house of Ravenclaw*



Picture 9. *The house of Hufflepuff*



Picture 10. *The house of Slytherin*



Picture 11. *Hogwarts*



Picture 12. *Celebrating Christmas at the Three Broomsticks in Hogsmeade*